



## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Robin Richter  
Kohler Co. Interiors Group PR  
(920) 457-4441 ext. 72340  
robin.richter@kohler.com

[www.bakerfurniture.com](http://www.bakerfurniture.com) or  
1(800) 592-2537

### **BAKER PRESENTS THE BARBARA BARRY COLLECTION**

CHICAGO (April 2, 2011) – Baker, a leading manufacturer and designer of fine home furnishings, presented The Barbara Barry Collection at the Spring 2011 International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, N.C. This renewed collaboration with internationally renowned Barbara Barry celebrates a new era of Baker design. The sumptuous 62-piece collection includes living room, dining room, and bedroom casegoods and upholstery, lighting, mirrors, and table top pieces.

The collection bridges Barry’s earlier Baker designs in a seemingly effortless way exuding a relaxed, yet sensual personality and character. “Original yet classic, this new collection for Baker is timeless, speaking to a vision of mine that has ripened over a long and loving career devoted to beauty,” explained Barry. “The designs work well together as they are from the same hand. I like seeing the original pieces in the new finishes and blending them with the new collection. There is a ‘simple elegance,’ a hint of restraint, a whisper of resolve. Each piece has been pared down to live in harmony with other pieces whether from my collection, other collections, antiques or modern pieces.”

The award-winning, multi-disciplined interior designer has created homes for many prominent American families. Barry’s designs for commercial and private spaces are international in scope and sophisticated in mood. These prestigious commissions range from restaurants and stores to private estates, offices, and yachts. Her residential projects have graced homes in cities such as Beverly Hills, Malibu, Maui, Chicago, and Jackson Hole. Some of her prominent projects include: Eli Broad’s Foundation office along with his Manhattan apartment in the Sherry Netherland, the Savoy Grill in London, Michael Mina’s restaurant in the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, the Avon Spa in New York, and the Barbara Barry galleries in Bangkok and Moscow.

more ...

## **Baker Presents The Barbara Barry Collection, Page 2**

Praise from her peers and the press has also earned Barbara Barry a distinctive place in design. Her awards include the *Interior Design* “Hall of Fame,” *Architectural Digest* “World’s 100 Best Designers,” *House Beautiful* “Giants of Design,” and “Designer of the Year” from *Elle Décor* International Design. Additionally, she has been awarded the ASID “Designer of Distinction,” “Star of Design” for Lifetime Achievement at the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, *Traditional Home* “Designer of the Year,” and *Interiors Magazine* “Best in Residential Design.”

Barbara Barry’s partnership with Baker began in 1996, unveiling a collection effused with modern sensibility and reflecting her passion for symmetry, scale and proportion. The resounding response from media, designers and consumers could be heard the world over, leaving everyone wanting more. The collection continued to evolve over the next decade creating iconic pieces such as her High-Heeled Nesting Tables and Oval X Back Chair and numerous other signature forms that have withstood the test of time.

Beyond her collection for Baker, Barry has also designed highly successful collections for sister companies McGuire, ANN SACKS and KALLISTA, as well as other luxury brands. “As a designer I work on many things at the same time and love that organic way of working,” said Barry. “I have a passion for process and find inspiration through observation and awareness. I am taken by the simplest things... the shape of an egg, the color of water in a bathtub, the clouds in the sky.” It is this appreciation that stands as testimony to Barry’s design continuum, abilities and vision to capture and hold the imagination no matter the medium.

“I believe people want more thoughtful interiors that reflect themselves and not a design trend,” explained Barry. “Modernism is here to stay but there has been an evolution in its approach, there is more warmth and simplicity, which I believe is the ultimate luxury.”

### **Casegoods**

The 35 wood forms are crafted from walnut laid in quarter-cut walnut veneers, expertly cut to showcase the beauty of the natural wood pores. Interior drawers are completely finished and all are designed to *soft close*. Custom cast brass hardware designed exclusively for the collection are handcrafted in a small custom shop in Italy and reflect Barry’s elegant sensibility with the interior pulls as beautiful as those adorning the fronts.

more ...

### **Baker Presents The Barbara Barry Collection, Page 3**

Three wood finishes were developed for the collection: Brunette, Raven, and Plume. Baker employed a half-filled finish technique to enhance the natural graining and wood pore and create a luminescence in the finish to encourage reflecting light to dance across the surface. Transparent and dimensional in its depth of color, the warm brown Brunette with its golden undertones is hand-rubbed, to a soft polish 70 sheen finish, while the deeper Raven is hand-rubbed to a full-bodied 80 sheen. Plume is a translucent finish achieved by layering warm brown over a soft gray undertone then softly rubbed to a low sheen.

To emphasize the beauty of the wood and finishes, Barry selected a range of materials. Included in the mix are high satin sheen lacquers in an organic palette of linen, quill and pearl, white onyx, limestone, faux shagreen, burnished gold leaf, warm silver leaf, and bronzed mirrored glass.

A striking form with myriad applications is the Celestial Commode. A top of walnut laid in quarter-cut walnut veneer rests above a coved framed detail in gold leaf and a cabinet of intricate design. Fashioned after a favorite fabric of Barry's, the cabinet front and sides feature a textured swirling design, its coloration a multi-layered process giving the appearance of a raised and recessed nap as if a hand had caressed its surface. This stunning cabinet is offered in two finishes: a Raven walnut veneer top and walnut cabinet in deep Fig glaze or in a Brunette walnut veneer top and walnut cabinet in creamy Stardust glaze. Gold leaf is then hand-applied to bring out the cabinet's decorative relief.

Joining the mix are two inspired accent tables to dress her rooms. The Quarry Accent table is a quirky, somewhat geometric design in cast resin finished in Antique Bronze, Matte Pearl Gesso or Warm Silver Leaf. The Bauble Drum Table is also crafted from resin and finished in Golden Geode, a multi-layered faux finish with its base of cool cream lacquer decorated in a sweeping, hand-applied, golden toned metallic glaze and gold leafed base.

### **Upholstery**

Renowned for her expertise in upholstery, Barry brings 13 new pieces to Market. These *Best in Class* designs incorporate sensuous curve with tailored line, painstakingly crafted in true Baker tradition. Fabric is hand-cut and sewn on-line one inch at a time, then hand tacked and re-tacked to a perfect flow match on all four sides. With a nod to haute couture, the designs feature French top stitching for a beautiful visual detail. Endless quality checks are made to ensure perfect pitch and

more ...

## **Baker Presents The Barbara Barry Collection, Page 4**

correct cushion selection for extraordinary comfort and support. Hardwood frames are hand-constructed with corners blocked, glued, screwed, and dowelled in Old World fashion, and true eight-way hand spring-to-base tying, positioning more springs to support pressure points so furniture maintains its beauty for years to come.

One of the stunners in this collection is the Cove Sofa, an enveloping, generous form with sweeping curved arms that carry to the back and tightly upholstered to emphasize its fluid lines. Its seamless back is set with five loose pillows above a bench seat. The frame rests on recessed round wafer feet to make the sofa appear as if it floats just slightly above the floor.

Barry also selected 45 new fabrics and three leathers to complement her upholstered designs. “Understatement is everything,” stated Barry. “I love colors that cannot be described in one word, believing these indescribable tonalities reach deeper into the psyche, resonating at a level that emits calm. My color sense revolves around nature and my color palette continues to evolve around soft neutrals.” Exclusive to Baker, the fabrics are at once casual with a sense of refinement, a blending of textures and colors to portray the softer side of color and hue, while still evoking that elusive combination of high style and design.

### **Lighting and Accessories**

Rounding out the collection are 14 lighting designs, including eight table lamps, a floor lamp, a chandelier, a sconce, three mirrors and three tabletop pieces. “It is a complete collection, all working together with ease,” said Barry. “I want to bring confidence and selection to the person who is searching for a warm and inviting environment.”

The sophisticated luminaries are handcrafted in Italy using a selection of exquisite natural materials, textural, luminous finishes, and classic, timeless design. Bases are topped by handmade Italian silk or pure cotton shades in colors of champagne or ivory and depending upon the style, wired to accommodate low 40-, 60- and 75-watt incandescent bulbs for soft, ambient light. The table lamps are fitted with high/low pull chains or switches and transparent cords. The lighting is Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved.

Barry designed three mirrors for the collection that incorporate lacquer, wood and metallic touches. The show-stopping Folie Mirror is an imaginative work of art that speaks to Barry’s sense of elegance and belief that “personal luxury comes in the details.” An impressive 50 inches high and

more ...

## **Baker Presents The Barbara Barry Collection, Page 5**

39 inches wide, the oval Folie Mirror has a crystal clear mirror surrounded by a cast resin frame of “whipped meringue with sculptural peaks.” An interior bevel separates the frame from the mirror and is offered completely finished in shimmery Matte Pearl or the bevel can be decorated in contrasting Burnished Gold Leaf or Warm Silver Leaf.

The accent pieces are sculptural, with a choice of materials and finishes making them warm and inviting. The Golden Pod is crafted from resin and walnut and offered in Burnished Gold Leaf or Warm Silver Leaf. The Mind’s Eye is an elliptical form cast in brass and finished in Burnished Brass. The Night and Day Spiral is a curvaceous form handcrafted from Bronze and finished in Oil Rubbed Bronze with Gold Leaf.

“This new collection is made up of many classic pieces and is more about a mood than a particular style,” said Barry. “There are so many ways that they can be assembled that I tend to look at the collection as whole with the core of my work reflecting simplicity and elegant form. It is this harmony, this relaxed sophistication that I want to bring to Baker as a designer... creating not just products but livable environments that never go out of style.”

Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Inc. includes Baker furniture, Baker Knapp & Tubbs Showrooms, and Baker Stores. Along with McGuire Furniture Company, Ann Sacks tile, stone and plumbing company, Kallista plumbing, and Mark David hospitality furniture, it is part of the Kohler Interiors Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kohler Co., a global leader in kitchen and bath designs.

Founded in 1873 and headquartered in Kohler, Wis., Kohler Co. is one of America’s oldest and largest privately held companies. Kohler is a global leader in the manufacture of kitchen and bath products, engines and power generation systems, cabinetry, tile and home interiors, and international host to award-winning hospitality and world-class golf destinations.

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